

Chariho School Committee Meeting  
Regular Session Minutes – June 14, 2022

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti, George Abbott, Ryan Callahan, Donna Chambers, William Day, Gary Liguori, Craig Louzon, Lisa Macaruso, Linda McAllister, Karen Reynolds and endawnis Spears.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella (arrived at 5:50 PM), Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, High School Principal Andrea Spas, High School Assistant Principal Jean Bradanini, Middle School Assistant Principal Mary Beth Florenz, CTC Director Gerry Auth, Development Officer Katie Kirakosian, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, Attorney for the School Committee Jon Anderson and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

I. Meeting Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Silent Meditation

Chair Lyall called the meeting of the Chariho School Committee, held in the Chariho High School Library, to order at 5:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silent meditation.

II. Motion/Vote to go into Executive Session

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was

VOTED: That the School Committee go into executive session and close the meeting to the public under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5 (a)(1) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to an individual's job performance or character or physical or mental health of a person or persons (Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022 - Pre-deprivation Hearings/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to collective bargaining (1. NEA ESP Grievance Hearing; 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022 - NEA ESP Negotiation Update; 3. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022 – NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update; 4. NEA ESP Negotiation Update; and 5. NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to litigation/legal update (1. Luzzi p.p.a. John Luzzi et al. v. Chariho Regional School District et al. – C.A. No. WC-2020-0094 and 2. The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for the purpose of discussion regarding the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices (All Hazards School Site Safety Survey Reports and School Security) and under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(8) for the purpose of reviewing and/or approving matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records (1. Approval of Home Instruction Requests and 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022 – Approval of Home Instruction Requests); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous.

III. Reconvene Open Session/Pledge of Allegiance/Silent Meditation

The Committee returned to open session at 7:03 PM and Chair Lyall reconvened the meeting at 7:04 PM. She asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent meditation.

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard noted that the item pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA ESP Grievance) was withdrawn so there are no minutes to close/seal.

2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

3. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to litigation (Legal Update - Luzzi p.p.a. John Luzzi et al. v. Chariho Regional School District et al. – C.A. No. WC-2020-0094) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to litigation (Legal Update - Luzzi p.p.a. John Luzzi et al. v. Chariho Regional School District et al. – C.A. No. WC-2020-0094) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

4. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to litigation (Legal Update - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to litigation (Legal Update - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

5. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes regarding the matter of security (All Hazards School Site Safety Survey Reports and School Security) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes regarding the matter of security (All Hazards School Site Safety Survey Reports and School Security) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

6. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA ESP Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA ESP Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Recused: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 recusal.

7. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

Donna Chambers made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained: Day. Recused: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with one abstention and one recusal.

#### V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Giusti noted there were eight votes taken in executive session. The first vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 24, 2022 – Pre-Deprivation Hearings/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts, passed unanimously with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The second vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 24, 2022 – Home Instruction Requests, passed with 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan,

Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The third vote, approval of two Home Instruction Requests, passed with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The fourth vote, approval of a Home Instruction Request, passed with 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 recusal with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister and Reynolds voting in favor with Spears recusing.

The fifth vote, in reference to RGB, passed unanimously with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The sixth vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 24, 2022 – NEA ESP Negotiation Update, passed with 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The seventh vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 24, 2022 – NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update, passed with 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The eighth vote, to close executive session and return to open session, was approved by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

#### VI. Recognition – The following were congratulated:

##### 1. Special Olympic Awards:

Simon Callen (grade 8) – Gold Medal in Softball Throw

Brayden Lajoie (grade 12) – Gold Medal in Track (100-meter run) and Silver Medal in Track (200-meter run)

Joseph Parrillo (grade 10) – Gold Medal in 50-meter dash and Silver Medal in the Softball Throw.

Amelia Cole (grade 10) – 4<sup>th</sup> Place in both the Softball Throw and 100-meter dash

##### 2. High School 2022 Senior Athletic Awards:

Sportsmanship Award Winners – Julia Fortune and Kyle Ackroyd

Scholar Athlete Award Winners – Cole Rinne and Anna LaCroix

Athlete of the Year Winners – Bella Santos, Grace Abbott and Nathan Allen

##### 3. Middle School Softball Division Champions

##### 4. High School Post-Season Awards:

Girls' Track – Weeko Thompson (Shot Put - All-Division 1<sup>st</sup> Team, All-Class 1<sup>st</sup> Team, All-State 2<sup>nd</sup> Team. Discus – All-Division 1<sup>st</sup> Team, All-Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Team, All-State 3<sup>rd</sup> Team).

Emily Brown (300 Hurdles – Freshman State Champion, All-Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Team, All-Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Team, 4x100 – All Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Team).

Erin von Housen (1500 Meter – All-Division 1<sup>st</sup> Team, 800 Meter – All-Division 3<sup>rd</sup> Team, 3000 Meter – All-Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Team.

Grace Abbott (4x100 – All-Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Team); Rachael Abbott (4x100 – All-Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Team); Anna LaCroix (4x800 – All-Class 3<sup>rd</sup> Team); Catherine Allenson (4x800 – All-Class 3<sup>rd</sup> Team); Maya Weathers (4x800 – All-Class 3<sup>rd</sup> Team); Tori Babineau (4x800 – All-Class 3<sup>rd</sup> Team).

Girls' Lacrosse – Laurel McIntosh (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division); Chaia Elwell (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division); Emily Ballard (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Division); Mia Campbell (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Division); Megan Ballard (Honorable Mention); Gabrielle Macaruso (All-Rookie); Lia Kelvington (Sportsmanship Award and All-Academic); Kealia Niles (All-Academic); Brittney Godbout – Coach of the Year (along with Portsmouth Coach Amelia).

5. All-State Chorus – Maisie Datson, Abby Fadgen, Violette May, Christian Sullivan.
6. Charlestown School Committee Representative Linda McAllister for her service to the Chariho community. We wish her the best with future endeavors.

## VII. Public Forum

Chair Lyall noted that this is the time if anyone wishing to speak on items not on this evening's agenda can do so by coming to the mic and stating your name and place of residence. Student Zoe Liguori-Bills came this evening to speak about the recent cut in World Language teachers. She regrets the fact that they did not come to the last meeting. She feels taking Spanish away from elementary students will make it harder for them to become fluid in the language. Please listen to us as we plead with you. Look at other changes that can be made. Donna Wedge from Coventry, representing EnRich RI, came to thank the administration for the support that was given their group when revising the Home Instruction Policy. They appreciated being included in this discussion. Robert George, a Hopkinton resident and parent, noted that his daughter has been taking Spanish since she was at Hope Valley Elementary School. Spanish is the single biggest language request. Being able to communicate with people from other parts of the world is important. He cannot see cutting a critical language program. As Zoe so eloquently pointed out, this will put kids behind if they don't get the chance to start a language before High School. Chariho is the best school system in the state but you are cutting yourself short by eliminating Spanish at any level. Maybe try to get funding somewhere else. Goldie Williams from Richmond stated that we should make students wear masks when they return in fall. The Superintendent noted that masks are not required. If a person has COVID, they have to quarantine for five days but can then return with a mask after the five days. Goldie stated that her son learned German from a program so there are other ways to learn a language. Charlestown resident Elaine Ricci commented on the news coverage concerning a Pride Flag at Chariho. The comment made regarding the school's policy to only have two flags; the American Flag and the State Flag, as our classroom environment must remain neutral was a hurtful statement. Everybody is different and she feels our schools are accepting of all. There was no mention of support for the LGBTQ community and they feel they are not accepted. This saddens her. She knows it wasn't intentional. Superintendent Picard noted that she appreciated the feedback. She met with students and will continue to meet monthly as she wants all kids to know that they are respected. She explained to them how they could advocate for themselves with a group of leaders instead of planning things like walk-outs. Ms. Ricci stated that she did not realize this had taken place as the group Ms. Picard met with did not share this with others. Gina noted the discussion will be ongoing as our goal is to make all kids feel supported. Goldie Williams asked, because they are mentioning Pride Month, do we have Mental Awareness Month, Holocaust Awareness Month, etc. Chair Lyall noted that they get Goldie's point and she thanked all who spoke.

## VIII. Policy

A. Home Instruction Policy Revision – This item was tabled at the last meeting. Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revised Home Instruction Policy which has been reviewed by legal counsel. Chair Lyall noted her appreciation to Ms. Wedge for her comments.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was  
VOTED: To approve the revised Home Instruction Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Secondary Grading Policy Revision – This item was tabled at the last meeting. The Superintendent recommended approval of the revised Secondary Grading Policy. Craig Louzon made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the revised policy. Gina noted one clarification to page 3 of 5 under "Reassessment". The word "may" should replace the word "will" in the first sentence. Catherine asked if this will be offered to all students to which the Superintendent replied that it will not be forced. Students will be given the choice/opportunity. Donna questioned, on page 3 of 5, only two levels (Meet/Does Not Meet) are offered and not three. Andrea noted this is correct. The High School only has two levels for Learner Qualities not three like the Middle School.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To amend the policy with a change on page 3 of 5 under “Reassessment” by replacing the word “will” with the word “may”. In favor: Unanimous.

Craig questioned, on page 4 of 5, why not a “zero” to “50” to which Karen stated that the ‘50’ gives the student a better chance to recover; this is in favor of the student.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED To approve the Secondary Grading Policy as revised and amended. In favor: Unanimous.

#### IX. Business

A. Field Trip Request(s) – The Superintendent noted that this item was tabled at the last meeting. She spoke with legal counsel who did not see an issue with this request. CTC Director Auth is in attendance (unfortunately both Advisors had previous commitments). She recommended approval of the request of FFA Advisors Stacie Pepperd and Christine Haberek for 1 student and 2 chaperones to travel to the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, IN from Tuesday, October 25 through Friday, October 28, 2022 contingent upon compliance with policy. She noted that it enhances the program to have adults in attendance to provide support and collaborate with others. We do send chaperones when students are in college just as the SkillsUSA Trip that was recently approved by the Committee. Some of those students graduated and were over 18. Gary noted that his concern was not so much around having teachers there but more around liability. He is fine as legal has approved it.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the request of FFA Advisors Stacie Pepperd and Christine Haberek for 1 student and 2 chaperones to travel to the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, IN from Tuesday, October 25 through Friday, October 28, 2022 contingent upon compliance with policy. In favor: Unanimous.

B. RIDE Memorandum of Agreement for the Art Re-engages Talent in All Students (ARTS) Initiative of the SBA Capital Fund – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the RIDE Memorandum of Agreement for the Art Re-engages Talent in All Students (ARTS) Initiative of the SBA Capital Fund with all School Committee Members required to sign (if approved). Bill asked if they knew what the eligible expenses are to which Gina replied the Middle School auditorium needs a little lift. Bill stated that he wants to make sure we don’t fall behind with what is eligible and what is not. Lisa commented that she would like to bring back opportunities/programs, such as High School Band, to which Gina replied that the band program at the High School did not run because we did not have the interest in it; it was not because the program was removed. We are looking to ensure interest at the Middle School and will begin there. Lisa thanked Gina for this really important clarification.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the RIDE Memorandum of Agreement for the Art Re-engages Talent in All Students (ARTS) Initiative of the SBA Capital Fund. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Consolidated Resource Plan – The Superintendent recommended approval to submit the CRP, which includes Title I, Title II, Title IV and IDEA. Chair Lyall asked if this is money that is given back for special services to which Gina replied that part of it is; it covers Title programs.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To approve submission of the Consolidated Resource Plan. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Champlin Grant - NextGenSTEM: Building networks for Middle School students interested in pursuing STEM Pathways and Careers – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to submit the NextGenSTEM: Building networks for Middle School students interested in pursuing STEM

Pathways and Careers to The Champlin Foundation in the amount of \$85,742.85. We used this proposal around the Honda Grant. Katie is in attendance if there are any questions. Katie noted that this follows all the stipulations for funding up to \$100,000. Ryan commented that at the Awards Ceremony, he noted that most of the recipients were female; how much are we dropping off from Middle to High School. Katie replied that it is roughly a 45-55% split. Susie Scanapieco, STEM Coordinator, noted that a lot of research has been conducted around that data, basically up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In the High School we see a quick divide with life science and computer science; there is a high female percentage for life science with computer science/engineering being more male dominant.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To approve submission of the NextGenSTEM: Building networks for Middle School students interested in pursuing STEM Pathways and Careers to The Champlin Foundation in the amount of \$85,742.85. In favor: Unanimous.

E. High School Math Q1 Curriculum – Dr. Comella and Susie Scanapieco were in attendance to provide an update. The Superintendent recommended approval of the High School Math Q1 Curriculum. Susie targeted a few things; this matches the Middle School Curriculum. The major themes are the context that will be taught with a focus on standards. They have added a calendar so instructors can pay attention to the pace (our teams are used to staying on pace). They have to show Q1 by September; Q2, Q3 and Q4 they will work on simultaneously. They are considering changing the order of courses, offering Geometry first, then Algebra I followed by Algebra II. The whole math curriculum will be done. Chair Lyall commended Dr. Comella, Susie and the Team for the great job they did.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the High School Math Q1 Curriculum. In favor: Unanimous.

F. Library Media Curriculum Revision – Superintendent Picard noted that Dr. Comella and Dana Hall are in attendance and will provide an update. She recommended approval of the revisions to the Library Media Curriculum. Dana thanked all who served throughout the process. She provided background and noted that in 2017 (pre-COVID) it was approved to adopt the most current state curriculum. She likes how this model reflects our Learner Qualities and High School projects which we will be moving to. There are four anchor standards (noted on page 11) and also included is a 'Year at a Glance' which ensures that all standards are taught and identifies cross curricula standards. The Resources Page was also updated. Lisa thanked Dana for the presentation. She questioned what a lesson might look like to which Middle School Library Media Specialist Sarah DeVito Thompson explained how the model ties in nicely with the Highly Capable Program. This allows kids to dig deeper into something they are interested in. Lisa wondered how this would be used for all students to which Sarah noted that a student can go into a computer class and evaluate/vet sources online. Lisa thanked Sarah for providing great examples.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the revisions to the Library Media Curriculum. In favor: Unanimous.

G. Letter to Hopkinton Town Council re 1904 Building – This item was requested by George Abbott. Superintendent Picard recommended approval to forward this letter to the Hopkinton Town Council. Bill noted that it is his understanding that Hopkinton has \$2.4 million in ARPA money; this would be a good use for some of this money. Maybe Hopkinton residents will approach the Hopkinton Town Council and ask them to remove this safety issue in Hopkinton.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To forward this letter to the Hopkinton Town Council regarding removal of the 1904 building. In favor: Unanimous.

H. Request to *The Westerly Sun* to Advertise Unified Sports' Schedules – This item was requested by Bill Day. The Superintendent recommended the Committee grant approval for her to contact *The Westerly Sun* with this request. Bill noted that the RILL recognizes over thirty sports. *The Westerly Sun* should not pick and choose what to promote. These students participate in Volleyball in the fall and Basketball in the spring. They work just as hard as other athletes and their schedules should be printed in the newspaper.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was

VOTED: To grant approval for the Superintendent to contact *The Westerly Sun* and request that they advertise Unified Sports' Schedules. In favor: Unanimous.

I. 403b Retirement Plan Provisions and Document Update – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to accept the updated plan documents as outlined in the memo from Ned Draper dated June 3, 2022 subject to review by legal counsel. Ned noted that this will keep us up to date with the CARES Act.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Gary Liguori and it was

VOTED: To accept the updated 403b Retirement Plan Adoption Agreement. In favor: Unanimous.

J. Request for Monitor Variance – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to submit a request for a variance for the 2022-2023 school year from the requirement which stipulates that bus monitors must be provided on all buses transporting students in grades K-5; this request only applies to secondary bus runs (we are requesting a variance for grade 5 only). Craig questioned why the State doesn't just change the wording so we don't have to do this every year. Donna noted the same concern to which Gina replied that she will ask about this.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was

VOTED: To approve submission of a request for a variance for the 2022-2023 school year from the requirement which stipulates that bus monitors must be provided on all buses transporting students in grades K-5; this request only applies to secondary bus runs (we are requesting a variance for grade 5 only). In favor: Unanimous.

K. Acquisition and Financing of Computers through a Master Finance Agreement and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Master Finance Agreement, Equipment Schedule and Related Documents, and Determining other Matters in Connection Therewith – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the acquisition and financing of computers through a Master Finance Agreement and authorizing the execution and delivery of a Master Finance Agreement, Equipment Schedule and related documents per the attached quote from Apple dated June 7, 2022 in accord with terms of Master Finance Agreement Apple Quote No. 2211214459 pending review by legal counsel if any changes are made (legal counsel has already approved what is in the packet).

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was

VOTED: To approve the acquisition and financing of computers through a Master Finance Agreement and authorizing the execution and delivery of a Master Finance Agreement, Equipment Schedule and related documents per the attached quote from Apple dated June 7, 2022 in accord with terms of Master Finance Agreement Apple Quote No. 2211214459 pending review by legal counsel if any changes are made. In favor: Unanimous.

L. Bullying Practices and Protocols – This item was requested by Lisa Macaruso. The Superintendent noted that there was a presentation done in March 2022 and next year there will be additional support for all staff. Lisa stated she brought this forth at the request of Elaine Ricci. She asked Gina for the definition as to what bullying is. The Superintendent read the definition from the Statewide Bullying Policy which our policy is structured from. Lisa noted that she understands how Chariho defines

bullying but what types of training and how do we communicate this to staff and students. Gina explained that the Behavior Codes are in the process of being revised. We have three new deans so this will help us reset the stage. We are talking with other districts and will bring in presenters. The most important place is the Middle School. Often times a person bullies because they have been bullied. At the High School, they tend to seek a higher level of aggression if we do not implement programs. We are undergoing an overall reset in the District. We have ongoing talks with SITs and we talk with students during Advisory periods. We are partnering with the Chris Collins Foundation and will push ideas of kindness, respect, peer-to-peer mentoring; there is a lot of work going on. We are adding two additional clinicians to help with professional development across the District. Catherine stated that she thought bullying was a repetitive behavior; she didn't hear that. If a student is called a slur by another student, is that bullying if they don't bring it forward? She is not sure it rises to the level of bullying. Some students were threatened when wearing the Pride Flag. One time is too many. We need to address it. She needs clarification. Gina referred all to the Statewide Bullying Policy. There is a lot here. Any student at any time needs to report it. Lisa felt it was under-reported. Training is so critical. We should ask students, "How did it make you feel?" It could be because of fear and intimidation. Bill noted a concern with the last paragraph which states "is any information disclosed to parents". Disciplinary action cannot be disclosed. Gina noted that they can disclose the proper agency that people should contact. Bill stated that he wants to be comfortable knowing that we are documenting everything. Gina replied that it can be upsetting to a parent to not know everything. FERPA only allows some information to be shared. Ms. Ricci thanked Catherine, Bill and Lisa for their comments. Many times a student is going to a dean or a teacher and are being told it is not bullying. She agrees with asking a child "How they felt" is very important. There is frustration with communication. She likes the way the District is actively pursuing it and the creative ways you are looking at presenting it. Kids are thinking it is acceptable behavior. The first incident, even if it is not bullying, you should get the parent involved. We have good kids here. Build a leadership with the students as well. She questioned the digital report form to which Gina explained that Dorothy Fitzgerald is working on it. Dorothy is excellent. The form is not the problem; the issue is on the vendor's end. If it is not ready by September, we will use a Google form. We are trying to get the form in PowerSchool. The education of our students is just as important as the education of our staff. Gary commented on Catherine's point – calling someone a jerk may not be bullying but it is wrong. We have forgotten about decent, moral behaviors. We all have to get back to modeling good behavior. Elaine made a suggestion that no matter what, communicate with the parents so that parents can have a conversation with their child. Catherine noted that when this was first brought up, Greg said he needed help from the community. We need to model the behavior that we expect from students. We have certain words that we used to use that we do not use anymore. We need to encourage the community to help children understand what is acceptable and what is not. Goldie noted that bullying is what her older son went through and he didn't want to go to school. endawnis stated there are avenues of reporting; do peers have to report bullying or are there student advocates who do this? Gina replied that often times students will report if they hear something. We have the "Say Something" app which is anonymous. It is important for us to know what is going on. Nine out of ten times the parent is cooperative. We are working on getting students to tell a teacher. Mr. George stated he is glad he stuck around. The only exception to the good education at Chariho is that his son was bullied for five years but was afraid to say anything. Kids are afraid to come forward. Anytime he has reported something, the Middle School staff have gone out of their way to prevent it. Make safe, anonymous ways for kids to report. That is the one cloud over Chariho. Gina explained that we have asked teachers to inform students of the anonymous app. That is why we will also educate students. Mr. George thanked the District for getting involved with this.

#### X. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lyall asked if there were any items to be pulled. Craig pulled A-1, A-2 and A-3.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was

VOTED: To move the remainder of the Consent Agenda Items. In favor: Unanimous.



- B. Transfers – Approved.
- C. Bill Review – Accepted.
- D. Budget Summary – As per enclosed.
- E. Balance Sheet – As per enclosed.
- F. Personnel Actions
- 1. Rescinded the non-renewal of the contracts for the following:

First Name	Last Name	FTE as of 9/1/21
Elissa	Genry	1.0
Taylor	Merritt	1.0

- G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quote - Granted permission to issue and award the following:
  - 1. Riser System Bid – This purchase, for the High School Music Room, is being funded as part of the Champlin Grant with approval to award the bid prior to the next School Committee Meeting as long as the bid comes in within the amount budgeted in the grant.
  - 2. Scaffold and Ladder Bid – This purchase, for the CTC Construction Program, is being funded as part of the RIDE Equipment Grant with approval to award the bid prior to the next School Committee Meeting as long as the bid comes in within the amount budgeted in the grant.
- H. Permission to Award Contracts – Awarded the following:
  - 1. Floral Cooler Bid to PKJ International LLC, Stafford TX, in the amount of \$6,299.00.
- I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.
- J. Grants – None at this time.
- K. Donations – None at this time.

A-1. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022 – Superintendent’s Contract (minutes not sealed). In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained (due to absence): Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

A-2. Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes May 10, 2022 (minutes not sealed). In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained (due to absence): Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

A-3. Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Gary Liguori and it was VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of May 24, 2022. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained (due to absence): Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

## XI. Reports

- A. Subcommittee Reports – Nothing to report.
- B. Superintendent’s Report
  - 1. Kindergarten Registration Update – The Superintendent reported the numbers to date for K registrations are: Ashaway – 17, Richmond – 50, Charlestown – 24 and Hope Valley – 30. This is very much in line with what we saw last year. Often times they wait for summer to end.
  - 2. District Yard Sale - The Annual Yard Sale will be held on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> with district-wide government agencies and non-profits given first option. A list of items for sale was included in the packet.
  - 3. End of Year Updates – Last Friday we celebrated graduation and she told Mrs. Alvarez, one of the advisors who was in attendance for the meeting, how proud she was of the students who received over \$100,000 in scholarships. They were all well-behaved at all ceremonies.
  - 4. RIDE Kindergarten Jumpstart 2022 Summer Enrichment Grant Application Update – We received the grant in the amount of \$18,249.43 to boost K readiness. A child must be fully registered for kindergarten to be eligible.

5. RIDE CTE Teacher Grant for LEAs with RIDE-Approved CTE Programs Update – We received this grant in the amount of \$23,382.40.

C. Coming Events - June 21<sup>st</sup> is the last day of school for all schools except CALA which has two additional make-up days.

XII. School Committee Requests for Future Agenda Items or Legal Opinions

Bill noted that in a previous meeting the Committee was made aware of the inequity in SAF accounts; he requested an update. Ned noted that they do have the information available to which Gina added that she did not put this in policy but put it in practice. She would be happy to make it a policy if the Committee wants this. Bill also noted his concern with the amount of busses being passed while they are stopped with their lights on. Cars are flying by. Ned noted there was legislation about this and he will talk with Lillian about the possibility of installing cameras.

Lisa stated that she would like a reset of bullying practices on an agenda at the end of September or beginning of October.

XIII. Adjournment

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:53 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

---

Donna Sieczkiewicz, District Clerk